



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AMX
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/681,524	04/23/2001	Wen-Tsao Lee		4634
28639	7590	09/09/2004		
			EXAMINER	
			SANTIAGO, MARICELI	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2879	
DATE MAILED: 09/09/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/681,524	LEE, WEN-TSAO
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Mariceli Santiago	2879

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,4,9 and 14-22 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 1,4,9 and 14-22 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 April 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The Amendment, filed on November 26, 2004, has been entered and acknowledged by the Examiner.

Cancellation of claims 2-3, 5-8 and 10-13 has been entered.

Claims 1, 4, 9 and 14-22 are pending in the instant application.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 4, 9 and 14-22 are objected to because of the following informalities:

The claims do not properly conform to the English language and United States patent practice.

The following claims drafted by the examiner and considered to distinguish patentably over the art of record in this application, are presented to applicant for consideration to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors:

Claim 1. A multi-tube fluorescent discharge lamp, comprising:

a total of N multiple number of glass tubes, each of different caliber and arranged in a coaxial structure within each other;

an isolator near a middle section of an innermost first glass tube and extending to an (N-1)th glass tube;

plural-numbered through-holes near both sides of the isolator at odd-numbered glass tubes starting from the innermost first glass tube to the (N-1)th glass tube, and around ends of even-numbered glass tubes starting from an inner second glass tube to an (N-2)th glass tube;

a pair of cathodes placed at both ends of the innermost first glass tube;

phosphor layers on inner and outer surfaces of the glass tubes starting from the inner second tube to the (N-1)th tube, on the outer surface of the innermost first glass tube and on the inner surface of the Nth tube; and

both ends of all glass tubes being sealed to form a succession of interconnected discharge chambers provided in a state of vacuum and comprising mercury (Hg).

Claim 4. A multi-tube fluorescent discharge lamp, comprising:

a total of N multiple number of glass tubes, each of different caliber and arranged in a coaxial structure within each other;

an isolator near a middle section of an innermost first glass tube and extending to an (N-1)th glass tube;

plural-numbered through-holes near both sides of the isolator at odd-numbered glass tubes starting from the innermost first glass tube to the (N-2)th glass tube, and around ends of the even-numbered glass tubes starting from an inner second glass tube to an (N-1)th glass tube;

a pair of cathodes placed at both ends of the innermost first glass tube;

phosphor layers on inner and outer surfaces of the glass tubes starting from the innermost first tube to the (N-1)th tube, and on the inner surface of the Nth tube; and

both ends of all glass tubes being sealed to form a succession of interconnected discharge chambers provided in a state of vacuum and comprising mercury (Hg).

Claim 9. A multi-tube fluorescent discharge lamp, comprising:

a total of N multiple number of glass tubes, each of different caliber and arranged in a coaxial structure within each other;

an isolator near a middle section of an inner second glass tube and extending to an (N-1)th glass tube;

plural-numbered through-holes near both sides of the isolator at odd-numbered glass tubes starting from the inner third glass tube to the (N-2)th glass tube, and around ends of even-numbered glass tubes starting from an inner second glass tube to an (N-1)th glass tube;

a pair of cathodes connected to both ends of the innermost first glass tube and placed inside the inner second tube near each side of the isolator;

phosphor layers on inner and outer surfaces of the glass tubes starting from the inner second tube to the (N-1)th tube, on the outer surface of the innermost first glass tube and on the inner surface of the Nth tube; and

both ends of all glass tubes being sealed to form a succession of interconnected discharge chambers provided in a state of vacuum and comprising mercury (Hg).

Claim 14. The fluorescent lamp as in claim 1, 4 or 9, wherein said glass tubes are transparent glass tubes.

Claim 15. The fluorescent lamp as in claim 1, 4 or 9, wherein said glass tubes are transparent glass tubes of different colors.

Claim 16. The fluorescent lamp as in claim 1, 4 or 9, wherein said pair of cathodes, each is fixed on a stem which includes a pipe and a hole that connects with the pipe.

Claim 17. The fluorescent lamp as in claim 1, 4 or 9, wherein said phosphor layers have different color temperatures on each of the inner and outer surfaces of the glass tubes.

Art Unit: 2879

Claim 18. The fluorescent lamp as in claim 1, 4 or 9, wherein said pair of cathodes, each is a straight cathode or a ring cathode.

Claim 19. The fluorescent lamp as in claim 1, 4 or 9, wherein said pair of cathodes, each is a cold cathode or a hot cathode.

Claim 20. The fluorescent lamp as in claim 1, 4 or 9, wherein said discharge chambers are filled with argon (Ar).

Claim 21. The fluorescent lamp as in claim 1, 4 or 9, further comprising a base with a pair of terminals on each end of the lamp.

Claim 22. The fluorescent lamp as in claim 21, wherein said pair of terminals are connected to the pair of cathodes.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed November 26, 2004 have been fully considered.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

Art Unit: 2879

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

This action is a **final rejection** and is intended to close the prosecution of this application. Applicant's reply under 37 CFR 1.113 to this action is limited either to an appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences or to an amendment complying with the requirements set forth below.

If applicant should desire to appeal any rejection made by the examiner, a Notice of Appeal must be filed within the period for reply identifying the rejected claim or claims appealed. The Notice of Appeal must be accompanied by the required appeal fee.

If applicant should desire to file an amendment, entry of a proposed amendment after final rejection cannot be made as a matter of right unless it merely cancels claims or complies with a formal requirement made earlier. Amendments touching the merits of the application which otherwise might not be proper may be admitted upon a showing a good and sufficient reasons why they are necessary and why they were not presented earlier.

A reply under 37 CFR 1.113 to a final rejection must include the appeal from, or cancellation of, each rejected claim. The filing of an amendment after final rejection, whether or not it is entered, does not stop the running of the statutory period for reply to the final rejection unless the examiner holds the claims to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, if a Notice of Appeal has not been filed properly within the period for reply, or any extension of this period obtained under either 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b), the application will become abandoned.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mariceli Santiago whose telephone number is (571) 272-2464. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel, can be reached on (571) 272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MSb: 9/6/04
Mariceli Santiago
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2879


VIP PATEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER